

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 L-02 /081 W

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R 141718Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8862

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 4305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, ILO

SUBJECT: IRVING BROWN DISCUSSES PLO OBSERVER STATUS  
WITH ICFTU OFFICIALS

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 13, ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY VANDERVECKEN TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT IRVING BROWN, US WORKER DELEGATE TO THE ILO, HAS DRAFTED A RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE WHICH ATTACKS TEN MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES FOR THEIR FAILURE TO DISCHARGE OBLIGATIONS UNDER ILO CONVENTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE RATIFIED. BROWN PRODUCED A COPY OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHEN HE MET WITH ICFTU OFFICIALS KERSTEN AND VANDERVECKEN ON MAY 7 AT ICFTU HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS. VANDERVECKEN IS CONVINCED THAT THE RESOLUTION, IF INTRODUCED, WILL ONLY SERVE TO ANTAGONIZE PLO SUPPORTERS AT THE CONFERENCE. VANDERVECKEN IS ALSO PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BLOCKING THE PLO BID FOR OBSERVER STATUS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ACCORDING TO ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY VANDERVECKEN, AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN IS CONSIDERING INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION AT THE JUNE ILO CONFERENCE WHICH ACCUSES TEN COUNTRIES OF FAILING TO ADHERE TO ILO CONVENTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE RATIFIED. THE COUNTRIES ARE: ALGERIA, IRAN, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LYBIA, MOROCCO, SYRIA, AND EGYPT. THE RESOLUTION, WHICH WOULD BE INTRODUCED BY THE US WORKER DELEGATE, IS ENTITLED "RESOLUTION CONCERNING FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ILO REGARDING THE FAILURE OF CERTAIN MIDDLE EASTERN MEMBERS TO DISCHARGE OBLIGATIONS UNDER CONVENTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE RATIFIED." THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CITES THE CONVENTIONS AND INSTANCES OF VIOLATION FOR EACH OF THE TEN COUNTRIES.

3. VANDERVECKEN TOLD US THAT BROWN LEFT A COPY OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AT THE ICFTU AT THE CONCLUSION OF A MAY 7 MEETING WITH VANDERVECKEN AND ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN. VANDERVECKEN DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE RESOLUTION UNTIL AFTER BROWN HAD DEPARTED, BUT TOLD US THAT HE INTENDS TO ADVISE BROWN IN GENEVA LATER THIS MONTH THAT THE RESOLUTION, IF INTRODUCED, WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN THAT IT WOULD MERELY UPSET THE ARABS, WITHOUT HAVING ANY LIKELIHOOD OF APPROVAL SINCE THE ARABS WOULD BE DEFENDED BY THE MANY COUNTRIES IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA WHICH ARE NOTORIOUS FOR THEIR VIOLATIONS OR RATIFIED CONVENTIONS. VANDERVECKEN ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE ARABS WOULD BE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THE US IS AMONG THE COUNTRIES WITH THE LOWEST NUMBER OF CONVENTION RATIFICATIONS.

4. WHILE EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN, VANDERVECKEN ALSO SAID THAT BROWN MAY NOT BE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING INTRODUCING THE RESOLUTION. HE HINTED THAT BROWN COULD BE USING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, "JUST CARRYING IT AROUND", AS A PRE-CONFERENCE PLOY IN HIS EFFORTS TO BLOCK PLO OBSERVER STATUS. HOWEVER, IF THIS IS TRUE, CONFIDENTIAL

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VANDERVECKEN QUESTIONS THE WISDOM OF SUCH A TACTIC, SINCE IT WOULD UNNECESSARILY PUT THE AFL-CIO ON RECORD AS OPPOSING THE ARAB COUNTRIES FOR NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

5. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF BLOCKING PLO OBSERVER STATUS, VANDERVECKEN SAID THAT HE WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC. HE SAID THAT THE ICFTU WILL SUPPORT THE US WORKER

DELEGATE'S EFFORTS TO BLOCK REGOGNITION, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF SUCCESS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO TOLD US THAT BROWN HAS DEVELOPED A PROPOSAL FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE BASED ON A STATEMENT FROM THE PLO TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PLO "WILL RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF ALL ILO MEMBER COUNTRIES" (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE, OF COURSE, ISRAEL). VANDERVECKEN SAID THAT BROWN INTENDS TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH TUNISIAN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND WITH THE MOROCCAN MINISTER OF LABOR LATER THIS MONTH.

6. VANDERVECKEN THINKS THE ONLY HOPE FOR RECOLVING THE PLO ISSUE IS TO CONVINCE THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAT THEY ARE PLACING THE ILO IN JEOPARDY BY INVITING AN AFL-CIO WALK-OUT IF THE INSIST ON PLO RECOGNITION WITHOUT STRINGS. VANDERVECKEN ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES MAY FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO OPT FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION IF IT DOES INDEED APPEAR THAT THE AFL-CIO INTENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO.

7. DURING A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE FOLLOWING HIS MEETING AT THE ICFTU ON MAY 7, BROWN COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS STILL A "SLIM CHANCE" OF RESOLVING THE PLO OBSERVER STATUS QUESTION AMICABLY. HE MENTIONED HIS PLANS TO APPROACH BOURGUIBA WITH A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL, BUT SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON VIOLATIONS OF CONVENTIONS. GREENWALD

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